

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment claim 10 is amended to correct an informality. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Objection to Claims 10-13

The Office Action objects to claims 10-13 for informalities. By this Amendment, claim 10 has been amended to obviate the Office Action's objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Claims 1-26 Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) over Amano (Micromechatronics). However, Applicants respectfully assert that Amano does not constitute prior art.

Specifically, Amano has a publication date of November 8, 2002. This application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-203994 filed July 12, 2002, which pre-dates Amano's publication date. Applicants have attached a certified translation of JP2002-203994 in order to perfect priority. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that Amano fails to qualify as 102(a) prior art and cannot be used as the basis for the rejection of claims 1-26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-26 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Benjamin B. Mazahery
Registration No. 60,969

JAO:BBM/tbm

Attachment:
Translation of JP 2002-203994

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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